# PSC NEWS
## Missouri Public Service Commission

**NATURAL GAS RATES TO CHANGE FOR LACLEDE GAS COMPANY
CUSTOMERS UNDER SCHEDULED NATURAL GAS FILING**

Jefferson City (November 9, 2004)---To primarily reflect estimated changes in the cost of natural gas, natural gas rates will increase for Laclede Gas Company customers under a scheduled filing reviewed and accepted by the Missouri Public Service Commission.  This rate change, which is interim subject to refund, will take effect on November 15, 2004.

A residential customer currently pays $0.71623 per therm (per 100 cubic feet of gas).  Under this filing, the rate will increase to $0.82923 per therm, an increase of 11.3 cents per therm.  This increase in rates will result in the average residential customer paying approximately 12% more this winter for natural gas service than they would have absent this increase in rates.

Under tariffs on file with the Commission, Laclede Gas Company is scheduled to make four filings each year (January, March, June and November) to reflect the wholesale supplier cost of natural gas.  The next scheduled filing is January 2005.

Approximately 65% to 80% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers.  **The wholesale cost of natural gas** (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) **is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.**   The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply, demand and the weather. The Missouri Public Service Commission does conduct an annual regulatory review to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Laclede Gas Company serves approximately 630,000 natural gas customers in the City of St. Louis as well as the Missouri counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Butler, Iron, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, St. Francois and Ste. Genevieve.

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